

## **Amherst Conservation Commission Minutes Approved**

Amherst Town Hall –May 8, 2011 DRAFT

**Meeting called to order** at 7:08 PM by John Harvey

**Attendance:** John Harvey, Jim Bowen, Bill Wichman, Rich Hart, Anne Krantz, Alternates Bruce Beckley, Lee Gilman, Selectman Dwight Brew & New Member Daryl D'Angelo

**Minutes:** Minutes from April deferred as not received in time

**Treasurer – Bill**

Land \$301,500.47

Gift \$9,706.92

Budget \$230.00

Need to check with Jack about the expected grant funds and the outstanding bill from Skip Lyle.

**Planning Board** – Rich passed around the plans for a proposed development of 9 houses that are in Amherst but accessed through Bedford: Map 11-16.

The Planning Board tabled the review of the Scenic Road impact of the tree cutting on Mack Hill Rd. – many trees are slated to be cut. (Rich – when will this be un-tabled???)

**Jim DES correspondence** – notification for road maintenance on Mack Hill – culvert replacement with same size and length. Rich said the Planning Board discussed replacing those in wetlands with open bottomed culverts for amphibian migration.

Received the Expedited Permit for D&F for Map 9 - Lot 7, Taylor, 173 Mack Hill Rd – No further ACC action required.

**ACC Motorized Vehicle Policy** – John will present to Selectmen on Mon night

### **Plans & Permits**

Dawn Tuomala of Monadnock Survey returned to further discuss the WRMP for the proposed 2 houses and drive on Lot 6-100. The entire property is within the Amherst Wellhead Protection Area (Meeting Place Commercial well) which means this is a Public Water Protection Wetland and 100 foot buffers are required around all wetlands. The existing trailer is now in the buffer, the proposed new house will have a septic within the 100 foot buffer and the drive is in the buffer. Ms Tuomala reported that the new NH Best Management Practices Manual allows filtration 'socks' to replace silt fencing which is what she is proposing to use along the drive as this method is more effective and less intrusive. The socks are left in place to permanently form a small ridge to divert water runoff. In this case they should direct away from wetlands, but the land is low and flat. Discussion. Need more info to show slopes of the driveway – final grading plan. John suggested the drive not be paved. Question of what developer can do to offset the impacts of the project in the buffers and to the ecosystem; the front house and the road. Lee asked about additional landscaping. Tuomala noted that the property has been vastly improved already by the removal of the trash formerly on the site. Rich asked when the front trailer will be removed and indicated that there needs to be a more specific plan for that house proposal – both when and where it will replace the trailer and where exactly to be located.

Jim moved that decision on the WRMP be tabled pending additional information, including engineering drawings for the driveway showing slopes, socks, direction of water flow, etc. Lee 2<sup>nd</sup>, no further discussion. Passed.

### **New Business**

**Lee** – noted the mess along the Rt. 101 ramps the State Highway Dept made with its flail mower using the track arm to shredded and mangled tree limbs. Lee said this is not an accepted industry standard and that we should contact the state. Dwight reported that NH DOT happened to come to the last Selectmen's meeting and Selectman Grella did object to the unsightly work along the roadsides.

**Lee** – Invasive species along roadsides. Lee said that he is willing apply for the appropriate permit and tread small outbreaks of invasives (primarily Japanese knotweed and phragmites) along Amherst roadsides at no charge. He needs help in locating and mapping. Bill can help with maps and Anne will keep a list of reported locations. Rich is willing to write an article for the Citizen about this effort. The idea of a web address for reporting was discussed and Rich will look into the possibility.

**John** suggested an article about the 'wilderness' between Amherst and Merrimack that Bruce described at our April meeting; an area with no marked trails. Bruce will work on both trails and an article.

### **Round Table**

**Dwight** - Reported the Rick Katzenburg Is working on a grant to study the feasibility of bike trail from the Village to the Middle School - the federal Safe Schools program.

**Rich** – discussion of the ACC web site on the new Town Web Page, and how to restore all the information that used to be on it. Need to review information and update and then resubmit page by page. Rich will continue to manage the ACC site.

**Bill** – with the help of 52 volunteer hours by Boy Scout Troop 613, two new bridges were installed on Lordon and Bi-Centennial Trails. The trails grant ends and the end of June.

**Bruce** – Put a well cover over an open well at the \_\_\_\_\_ Farm.  
He noted that the Andover MA web site is good, also The NH Trails site.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Krantz, secretary

